

**Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region
Executive Officer's Summary Report
June 9, 2022**

ITEM: 6

SUBJECT: Public Hearing on Order No. R1-2022-0013 to consider adoption of proposed Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges of Highly Treated Groundwater to Surface Waters Following Extraction and Treatment of Groundwater Polluted with Petroleum Hydrocarbons and Volatile Organic Compounds, General NPDES No. CAG911001 (Craig Hunt)

BOARD ACTION: The Board will consider adoption of Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R1-2022-0013. The General Order will serve as a General National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for a period of five years.

BACKGROUND: On October 26, 1995, the Regional Water Board adopted Order No. 95-88 "Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges of Extracted and Highly Treated Groundwater Resulting from Cleanup of Groundwater Polluted with Petroleum Hydrocarbons and Volatile Organic Compounds." Subsequently, on January 26, 2001, June 29, 2006, May 5, 2011, and October 20, 2016, the Regional Water Board reissued the General Order by adopting Order Nos. R1-2001-9, R1-2006-0048, R1-2011-0028, and R1-2016-0034, respectively.

The purpose of this Proposed Permit is to regulate discharges of highly treated groundwater from a discrete point source to surface waters of the North Coast Region. Extraction and treatment of groundwater impacted by chemical pollutants as a result of an unauthorized release is a remedial option used to reduce or eliminate petroleum hydrocarbons or volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from groundwater. This technology is also implemented for plume control by creating hydraulic control and reducing unwanted migration of pollution in groundwater. This Proposed Permit is intended to authorize similar discharges from groundwater treatment facilities at sites that have been impacted by petroleum related compounds and other volatile organic compounds associated with an unauthorized release of pollutants to groundwater.

Currently, there are three dischargers enrolled under the existing General Order.

DISCUSSION: The Proposed Permit includes several important changes from the current General Order, as follows:

1. The initial monitoring and reporting requirements for new Dischargers have been made more explicit. These won't affect current Dischargers.

2. Discharger Monitoring Reports will be required to be submitted electronically rather than in paper, per state requirements (Standard Provision 5.3.2).
3. Language has been added to require Dischargers to cease the discharge prior to initiating a Toxicity Reduction Evaluation (TRE) when the discharge exceeds the numeric toxicity monitoring trigger (Special Provisions 7.3.2.1).
4. Dischargers will be required to participate in the Discharge Monitoring Report Quality Assurance (DMR-QA) program per State Water Board requirements (Monitoring and Reporting Program section 1.6).
5. Updates to the aluminum and mercury water quality objectives from the Basin Plan have expanded the number of tables in Attachment C.

A copy of the Draft Permit was posted on the Regional Water Board website and was available for public comment from February 18 through March 23, 2022, for a 30-day comment period. Staff notified the Permittees of the availability of the Draft Permit for public review and comment. No comments on the Draft Permit were received. Staff anticipates that the Proposed Permit will be uncontested.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Order No. R1-2022-0013, as proposed.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

1. Proposed Order No. R1-2022-0013
2. Notice of Public Hearing